



Cal EMA
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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CAL EMA SECRETARY MATTHEW BETTENHAUSEN JOINS STATE OF NEVADA IN CROSS BORDER EXERCISE

Top Homeland Security and Emergency Management Officials Prepare to Respond to Catastrophic Disasters

LAKE TAHOE- California Emergency Management Agency Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen today led the California-Nevada Cross Border Executive Tabletop Exercise. The exercise was designed to facilitate planning between the two states in the management of a catastrophic natural event.

The exercise, supported by the State of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM), provided the opportunity to discuss and identify current plans, policies and procedures in requests for assistance during catastrophic natural incident. The exercise focused on communications, Mutual Aid agreements and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

"Cross border exercises like these really demonstrate both California and Nevada's commitment to emergency management and foster excellent working relationships between the states," said Cal EMA Secretary Bettenhausen. "The lessons learned are truly invaluable in our ability to prepare for and respond to catastrophic disasters with a unified approach."

The simulated catastrophic natural disaster participants responded to included a 6.8 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks, which leads to an underwater landfall in the Crystal Basin area of Lake Tahoe. As part of the exercise, this causes several waves across the lake, including two Seiche Waves, or tsunami waves, one of which is simulated to be 18-20 feet in height.

In addition to Secretary Bettenhausen, participants included many executive level emergency responders, including Captain Todd Ellison, Special Operations Commander for the Nevada Highway Patrol, Captain LD Maples from the California Highway Patrol, Kelli Baratti, Operations Chief for the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Nevada National Guard Brigadier General William Burks, California National Guard Colonel Sylvia Crockett and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX Operations Chief Chris Magenheimer. Other agencies involved included the Nevada Department of Forestry, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Department of Forestry, California Department of Transportation and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District.

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